

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L10	2	("5837003").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/05/06 11:17
L11	23	("2308484" "3425419" "4298006" "4672962" "4748979" "4754752" "4899741" "5019075" "5041089" "5092841" "5106360" "5147385" "5151100" "5191883" "5196024" "5211631" "5248312" "5250070" "5269758" "5486208" "5624392").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2005/05/06 11:15
L12	29	(gear adj pump) and 607/104-106. ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/05/06 11:29
L13	0	(gear adj pump) and 606/32-52. ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/05/06 11:30
L14	14	(gear adj pump) and (heat adj transfer adj device)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/05/06 11:42
L15	643	(gear adj pump) and medical	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/05/06 11:57
L16	16	(helical adj tooth adj gear adj pump) and medical	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/05/06 11:47
L17	17	(helical adj tooth adj gear adj pump) and (circulat\$ with (fluid liquid water solution))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/05/06 11:47
L18	65	15 and balloon	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2005/05/06 11:50

[Back to Story - Help](#)

'My homework flew over McDonald's roof'



Fri May 6, 6:11 AM ET

Not much that comes out of the mouths of children surprises me anymore, with six school-agers 5 to 14 and memories of two offspring now in their 50s. But this week, I got a new nonpluser.

Ariana, 7, came from school to tell me gleefully that, "I don't have any homework tonight because it flew up over McDonald's roof." She, her twin brother, Andre, and sister Karina, 8, told this story:

With their part-time caretaker-driver, Mar, 28, a college student from Spain who lives with us, they stopped for an after-school snack before nearby karate lessons. The girls had lettuce and cheese sandwiches from Subway, but Andre wanted chicken nuggets from a next-door McDonald's.

At an outdoor table, Ariana took her homework out of her school backpack. As she picked up her sandwich, a gust of wind swooped away the papers. They disappeared over McDonald's roof.

After confirming the facts with Mar, I asked Ariana how she would explain it to her teacher. "I'll just tell the truth," she said nonchalantly. But after overnight consideration, she also took with her a scribbled note from her twin brother as a witness.

The reaction of her teacher, Ms. Diane Coates? "She really laughed hard and said she'd never heard that one before," Ariana reported. "But she made me do the homework makeup anyway."

What lessons did Ariana learn? Her afterthoughts:

- "If you're going to do homework, eat inside of McDonald's, not outside."
- "Make sure you have a witness when strange things happen, because grown-ups might not believe you."

My first era of fatherhood came during the time of Art Linkletter's popular book, *Kids Say the Darndest Things*. This era is showing me that they do the darndest things, too.

Copyright © 2005 USA TODAY, a division of Gannett Co. Inc.

Copyright © 2005 Yahoo! Inc. All rights reserved.

[Questions or Comments](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Copyright/IP Policy](#) - [Ad Feedback](#)